



PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 98, Portland, CT 06480

JANUARY 2002 - NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- *Bob McDougall*

Now is the time for all good members to come to the aid of their Historical Society. With the new year well underway, we are fortunate to have an abundance of volunteer opportunities. We are hoping to open the museum soon, perhaps in June to celebrate Ruth Callander's Birthday. We realize this is an ambitious goal, but it is one we have been working diligently on for over four years. With your help we can finally have a town museum open and available to the public.

RUTH CALLANDER HOUSE - Eleanor Crowther and Chris Sullivan - 342-2907, 342-4105

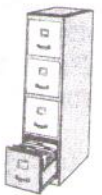
The Callander house renovation work is moving faster, so much faster that it is encouraging the committee to believe that we will be able to plan for a June date for a museum preview. Most of the construction required by the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) has been completed, the ramp is finished, a handsome new 36 inch wide door has been installed from the porch to the exhibit room and a handicapped equipped bathroom built at the back of the house.



Inside, some superficial painting is still required. Floors need urethaneing and the ceiling needs painting in the exhibit room. Outside, the driveway and parking space wait for warmer weather. The to-do list seems cheerily shorter.

Do you have a couple hours a week to help paint, sand or clean? There are many small projects at the museum that could use your assistance.

There's also a need for clerical volunteers. We have created a comfortable room upstairs with table and chairs for people interested in inventorying and archiving the collection. For instance, we need all of the old pictures identified, numbered and placed in archival envelopes for filing. Other artifacts need recording in the inventory, labeled and boxed for storage. Simple forms, easy to use, will be supplied by the Museum Committee. Call Chris or Eleanor and join in the fun.



MUSEUM COMMITTEE - Marie Keser, Vivian Dower and Bob McDougall

The Museum Committee is working on the forms that will be the backbone of the museum. They are refining the donation form, designing forms for volunteers to enter items on the inventory and designing ways to reconcile the existing inventory with the additions. We have items in numerous places around the town that may or may not be on the old inventory. Bringing the inventory up-to-date and establishing procedures for artifact labeling and identity tagging to assure easily retrievable storage is our primary goal. The committee has been using their own computers so if anyone would like to be a fairy godmother or godfather, the Society could use its own computer!

Help wanted: Data entry. Do you have a computer? Do you know how to type? Then we could use your help, (even if you're out of town, we could mail you information we need transcribed and it could be e-mailed back to us). The Museum Committee has a number of typing projects, large and small, which, when done, will help us make our resources more readily available. To get started, please contact Bob McDougall, (860-342-3062).

Sixth Annual Town-Wide Tag Sale -

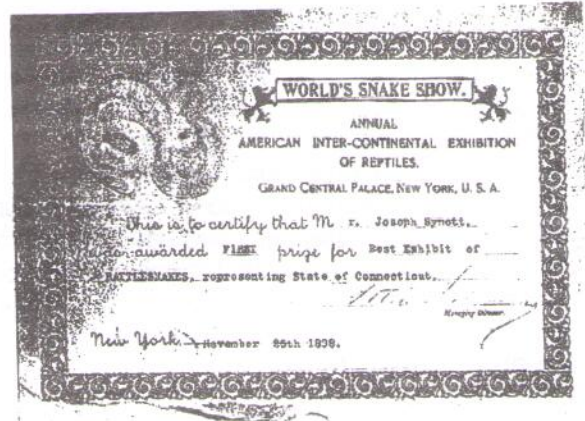
Eleanor Crowther, 342-2907

Organization meeting - February 12 in preparation for May 11 sale. **All volunteers are welcome!**

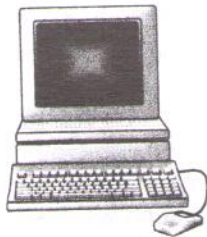
REPTILIAN TALES

Among artifacts donated to the Society recently from the Synnott estate by Anne Kavanaugh is a 1942 article about her grandfather, Joseph Synnott (1875-1950), who was warden and ranger of the Mashomasic Forest for 25 years. The forest was just a few steps from his home on South Road. His knowledge of every inch of his forest and his remarkable woodsman skills were lauded. Specially noted was his unusual ability to handle rattlesnakes which inhabited the forest. His noted skill was the ability to catch them with a forked stick. On one occasion when a meeting of forestry officials at Mashomasic doubted this talent, he left the meeting and promptly returned with a 5-foot rattler. The meeting adjourned.

Joseph Synnott's first recognition as a rattlesnake handler was in 1898 when he won First Prize at the Annual American Inter-Continental Exhibition of Reptiles at the Grand Central Palace in New York, for his rattlesnake exhibit representing Connecticut.



WANTED: Computer Equipment - If you are replacing your current computer we may have use for your old one. We are looking for a couple of Pentium Class P.C.s, monitors, printer, scanner (or any of the above). Please contact Bob McDougall to make arrangements. (342-3062).



RECENT GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY

Many thanks for gifts totaling \$520. received since November 1st, 2001 for the Callander House Museum from the following:

Robert and Linda Agoglioti, Grace Broberg, Jeanne Dilworth, John Gotta, Robert & Vianna Hale, Richard & Jean Harmon, Doris & Bruce Heerd, Warren & Jewel Jackson, Virginia McKeen, Mueller Family, Kathy Paredez, Ellen Roman, George & Constance Parks, Norma Werdelin, Peter & Jeannette Scianna, and Martin Weiner.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM - 2/26/02

Bernadette Dillon, Portland's Town Clerk, will introduce us to her archives of Portland's past. She will tell us where to find our land records and how to research the history of our houses or where grandmother's will is recorded. Whether it be births, deaths, wills, land transfer, or town map, she will make it all an open book. Doris Sherrow will assist with her personal research experience.

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY CURRENT?

We hope you will find your name here. If not, now is the time to renew. If in doubt, check the mailing label on this Newsletter. If "life" appears on the label, you are a life member, and your dues are paid. If "2002" appears, you have paid this year's dues. If none of the above shows on your label, then we have not received your dues for 2002.

The Society needs you as a contributing member - not only financially but also with your suggestions, your help and your knowledge of Portland's past. So Check the list, check the label and call me if you have questions. (Jean Kelsey, 342-0632). Dues: (Individual - \$10; family - \$20; lifetime - \$250) should be mailed to:

Portland Historical Society, Inc., P.O.Box 98, Portland, CT. 06480

Lifetime Members

Aresco Patricia S.
 Brede Colleen M.
 Burke Dr. & Mrs. Gerald
 Crowther Dr/Mrs D.S.F.
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 Cunningham Linda
 DeGraff Norma
 Del Russo Sr. Sam
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 Gildersleeve Mrs. Mary A.
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 Hale Elsie M.
 Heltrick Terrance J.
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 Kavanaugh Anne
 McCabe Jim/Martha
 McDougall Dylan Stephen
 McDougall Robert W.
 Muller William R.
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 Rockwood Mrs. Wm. O.
 Sarbaugh James
 Schufer John H.
 Scianna Mr. & Mrs. Peter P.
 Sloan Ann Gildersleeve
 Sullivan Bill and Chris
 Taylor Donald A.
 Whatmore Kenneth & Jean
 Wilson Mrs. Alfreda B.

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Agogliati Bob and Linda	Kutz Mrs. Roselies
Ahlberg Dorothy	Labella Tony & Mary
Anderson Alan & Joan	Lantos family Dr. Joseph
Anderson Marion	Larson Bill and Evelyn
Berggren Fred & Connie	Larson Harold & Sue
Bergman Sharon	Law George and Elaine
Blacha Edward H.	Lineen Jr. Marty
Blauvelt Julia	Lojeski Marjorie
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Broberg Grace E.	McBrien Mr & Mrs William J.
Bronson Charles and Nancy	McBrien Nancy L.
Burbank Marybeth Keser	McGowan Ruth
Ceulemans Dorothy	McKeen Virginia S.
Chalfant Helen F.	McMahon Anna Natale
Chapman Fred & Barbara	Mueller Nancy & Tom
Chowaniec Duane Marie	Newberg Beverly
Cozzi Yvonne	Nocera MaryEllen
Cramer Lucille C.	Omicoli Mrs. Edith
Cunningham Denis	Otterbein John & Diane
Curran Michael	Palmer Prudence
Dalton Sharon & Ray	Paredes Kathryn
Davis Jan	Parks George & Constance
DesRosiers Jannie	Perruccio William & Virginia
Devlin Earle and Jeanne	Peterson J. Paul
Dillon John & Bernadette	Peterson John & Marlene
Dilworth Jeanne C.	Peterson Mr.&Mrs. Ernest F.
Dinatale Fran	Petzold Jr Wm & Paula
Dower Walter & Vivian	Pitruzzello Sal J.
Downing Isabel	Prout Janet
Erskine Lloyd and Eileen	Puglisi Sal & Ethel
Flannagan Mr. John	Robinson Hazel
Foster Myron and Jane	Rode Ann
Frisbie Bill & Phyllis	Roman Ellen S.
Gilbert Robinson & Arline	Rosenbaum Howard & Sari
Gildersleeve Rick and Lynn	Scheer Mrs. Audrey
Gildersleeve Jr. Mr/Mrs Oliver DeP.	Schneck William D.
Goodgion Laurel	Sorenson Joan
Gotta John F.	Sprague Frances M.
Grover Allen & Ruth	Sullivan Francis & Hildur
Guild Virginia	Sullivan Gene and Shirley
Guilmette Randy & Joan	Swanson Elmer & Pat
Hale Robert A.	Sweet Jane
Harder Lawrence & Drusilla	Towner Mary Mulcahy
Harmon Richard & Jean	Waldman Dr.&Mrs. Arthur
Heerd Bruce and Doris	Washburn Bethia Robinson
Hill Dorian E.	Weiner Martin
Hill James & Carol	Werdelin Norma
Hughes & Family Joan	Wilson George and Leora
Hunt Donald & Linda	Woltmann Charles
Johnson George and Carolyn	
Johnson Hazel	
Jozus Ivar & Carol	
Kelsey Donald & Jean	
Keser Marie	

Programs - Regina Woltmann

2002

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- February 26 - Bernadette Dillon, Town Clerk - ***Introduction to Portland's archives.***
- March 26 - Rod Timanus, **local author and researcher**, will speak about his traveling research on the exploits of General George Custer, Lewis & Clark and Davy Crockett. **Meeting at Senior Center.**
- April 23 - Tom Kronenberger, **Restoration Specialist**, will speak about his work on DeKoven House, Central School and Gillette Castle.
- May 28 - To be announced.
- June 25 - **Annual Potluck Picnic.** We will be serenaded by the **Sweet Adeline's** singing group.

Meetings are held in the Mary Flood Room of Portland Library at 7:30 PM, unless otherwise specified. All are welcome.

NEWSLETTER - Phyllis & Bill Frisbie, 1/25/02

PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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